

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor: Sitaram Dontu, Shreeram Bhide, Faisal Mushtaq
Assignee: Cisco Technology, Inc.
Title: Distributed Multicast Forwarding in Virtual Network Devices
Application No.: 10/826,888 Filing Date: April 16, 2004
Examiner: Srinivasa R. Reddivalam Group Art Unit: 2477
Docket No.: CIS0216US Confirmation No.: 1421

Austin, Texas
October 19, 2010

Mail Stop ISSUE FEE
Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Dear Sir:

In the Statement of Reasons for Allowance of the Notice of Allowance (dated July 19, 2010), the Examiner provided reasons for allowance of claims 13-34, 36-42, 50-56, and 64-70. In the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance, the Examiner stated:

“Regarding claim 13 and subsequent dependant [sic] claims, prior art of record fails to teach or render obvious, alone or in combination, the method of claim 13 comprising performing an egress lookup for the packet in response to the receiving the packet, wherein the performing the egress lookup in a lookup table on a first line card comprises allocating a non-primary entry corresponding to a source address of the packet in the lookup table, if an entry corresponding to the source address has not already been allocated, wherein the non-primary entry indicates a second line card in combination with the all other disclosed limitations are recited in independent claim 13.” (Notice of Allowance, pp. 6-7, para. 3.)

The Examiner makes similar statements regarding claims 24, 34, 50, and 64. *See* Notice of Allowance, pp. 7-8.

As an initial matter, Applicants wish to express their appreciation for the allowance of claims 13-34, 36-42, 50-56, and 64-70. Applicants note, however, that the claims recite, more accurately (using claim 13 as an example):

13. A method, comprising:

receiving a packet via a virtual network device link, the packet comprising a unicast destination address, wherein

the virtual network device link couples a first virtual network device sub-unit and a second virtual network device sub-unit, and wherein

the first virtual network device sub-unit and the second virtual network device sub-unit are configured to operate as a single virtual network device within a network, and

the virtual network device is configured to perform Layer 2 forwarding to forward the packet to one or more network devices within the network; and

performing an egress lookup for the packet in response to the receiving the packet, wherein

the performing the egress lookup in a lookup table on a first line card comprises allocating a non-primary entry corresponding to a source address of the packet in the lookup table, if an entry corresponding to the source address has not already been allocated, wherein the non-primary entry indicates a second line card.

Moreover, even while accepting the allowed claims in their present form, Applicants do not (and need not) agree with the characterizations espoused by the Examiner, whether in the Notice of Allowance, or at other points during the prosecution of these claims (and indeed, during the prosecution of the claims in the parent case of the present application). In so stating, then, Applicants maintain their position with regard to the cited references, as presented during the prosecution of this application.

CONCLUSION

Applicants therefore respectfully submit that the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance fails to accurately reproduce the language of the claims in at least with respect to the foregoing. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned if there are any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

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